

I wanted to submit an email stating my support of S.B. 43, 49 and H.B. 5254.

I am a member of the Manchester Conservation Commission, Vice Chairman of the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee. I am an avid hiker, recreational biker/mountain biker, I canoe/kayaker, I X-country ski and snow shoe. I am a 59 year old male and a citizen of Manchester, CT.

I maintain the Hockanum River Linear Trails as a unpaid volunteer and spend approximately 120 hours a year cutting brush, mowing trails and removing dangerous fallen trees from the trail along the Hockanum River as well as those in the river that might lead to capsizing of watercraft or personal injury. This vantage point lets me see recreational land as both a "user" as well as one who works to maintain these lands, keeping them safe for public use.

I was appalled at the result of the trial in the MDC biking case. This case exemplified why the recreational lands have to be treated differently than current law allows. Since I maintain recreational lands to keep them safe and also use them knowing that there is an inherent risk in any active recreational activity, I believe municipalities and other owners of public recreational lands need protection from lawsuits by users of these lands. As stated, there are risks in recreational activities. Each person must take the responsibility to try to control those risks, not exceed their capabilities in ways that increase risk, and take responsibility for the behavior of minors in their control. Municipalities and access to their recreational lands shouldn't be jeopardized by the threat of litigation by people taking implied risks on these lands.